their relatives abroad. The villages are less compact than in other parts of the Near and Middle East, and separate farmsteads are common. Extremes of poverty, associated with primitive standards of sanitation, are most frequently encountered in the villages of southern Lebanon. In the cities, substandard housing is found chiefly in the old, congested quarters and in the Armenian sections.

The typical dwellings in all parts of the country are constructed of stone, cement or concrete blocks, with a surface of whitewashed or tinted plaster. The roofs are of two general types: peaked and of red tile; or flat, with a covering of cement or of mud and brush. The houses vary in size from one to several rooms, sometimes with two or more stories. The use of wood as a building material is prohibited by the fire regulations in the towns, but small wooden shacks are occasionally seen on the outskirts.

Beirut is a cosmopolitan city, a mixture of Arabic and Western culture. The older parts of the city are overcrowded, with narrow streets lined by innumerable small shops, which frequently have living rooms in the rear. Apartment houses, interspersed with detached dwellings surrounded by colorful gardens, dominate the newer developments. Architecturally, all gradations are encountered between old Arab-style houses and modern villas.

ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION

Water Supplies

Water supplies are obtained from streams, springs and wells, and, in general, are abundant in the coastal and the mountain districts but deficient in the interior. Beirut derives its water supply from the Nahr el Kelb, or Dog River, which is fed from an underground spring in the hills about 18 miles from the city. It flows by gravity through a tunnel and open canals to Dubaiya, 9 miles distant, where it is treated by preliminary rapid filtration, slow sand